

Proposed Statement for Hearing CATV Docket 06-1, August 16, 2006
From Public Hearing to Final Contract:

The road from proposal to final contract is a long road. / For a local government to provide adequate information / input as well as information output, / a process must be established to insure true government representation and fairness / to rate payers who they represent.

Some of the important topics of a local telecommunications license include:

System Coverage, houses per mile, percentage of residence served

Density formula for residential growth coverage

Initial installation time frame

PEG infrastructure, drop locations, buildings served

Local studio installation / equipment investment

Local studio funding, pass-through percentage

Franchise fee to town

Commitment to quality of service

Community needs ascertainment

Response to repair procedures and commitment

Is Verizon ready to offer a truly competitive product lineup?

Is Verizon ready to commit to our communities / as cable franchisers have had to / for the last 15 to 30 years?

Is it possible for Verizon and the established cable franchise / to combine service and funding / for local PEG studios?

How is it possible / for any form of local government / to come to a logical conclusion / regarding all of these issues / in a thirty day time frame / using mostly volunteer members / of a local cable advisory committee?

How is it even possible / for Verizon to truly and convincingly / supply the answers to all of these questions and issues / in a thirty day period?

I and my town believe that this change is unnecessary / and more importantly unfair / far more unfair to the residents, taxpayers, rate payers and voters / than the current time process law is to Verizon.

Sincerely,
Christopher J. Gagnon
Ashburnham Selectman